



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - December 2, 2002

- ***In the West***, weekend showers boosted topsoil moisture reserves in parts of *southern California and the Four Corners region*. However, most areas from the *Rockies westward* continue to suffer from the effects of long-term precipitation deficits, including drought-reduced irrigation reserves and severely stressed rangelands. In addition, a portion of the *Northwestern* winter wheat crop remains in poor condition.
- ***On the Plains***, mild, dry weather favors some additional winter wheat development across *southern portions of the region*. However, winter wheat is easing into dormancy across the *northern and central High Plains*, where drought-reduced soil moisture reserves limited wheat's autumn establishment and raised concerns about the crop's winter hardiness.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, very cold weather continues to stress livestock across the *upper Midwest* and is pushing winter wheat into dormancy from the *middle Mississippi Valley to the lower Great Lakes region*.
- ***In the South***, cool, dry weather favors autumn fieldwork, including winter wheat planting and final summer crop harvesting, although frosts and freezes on December 1 and 2 slowed pasture growth and may have burned back emerging winter grains as far south as areas from *central Louisiana to northernmost Florida*.

Outlook: Scattered rain and snow showers will accompany a cold front as it delivers another round of Arctic air to the *northern and central U.S.*, while mild, dry weather will prevail in the *Great Basin* and *Pacific Coast States*. Meanwhile, a storm system organizing in the *western Gulf Coast region* will produce a large area of precipitation across the *southern Plains* and *lower Mississippi Valley*. By mid-week, rain and snow will spread into the *Ohio Valley, Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic region*. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for December 7-11 calls for below-normal precipitation across the *upper Midwest*, while wetter-than-normal conditions are expected across the *Gulf Coast, Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic States*. Below-normal temperatures will persist across most areas *east of the Rockies*, while no large-scale areas of anomalous warmth are expected.

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